UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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14 November 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General, in report on agenda for development, says General Assembly's fiftieth session should focus on forging new framework for development cooperation; stresses need for more integrated, efficient and effective structure for United Nations assistance.

- Security Council expresses alarm at escalation of fighting in Bihac area; condemns violation of border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina by Krajina Serb forces.

- Fighting continues around Bihac as Bosnian Serbs reverse recent Bosnian Government gains; Special Representative for former Yugoslavia meets with authorities in Sarajevo and Pale.

- General Assembly includes sub-item on capital punishment in current agenda, by 70 votes in favour to 24 against, with 42 abstentions; allocates it to Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee as human rights issue.

- Secretary-General to pay brief visit to Haiti tomorrow, followed by stay in Jamaica.

- RENAMO President says he accepts results of Mozambican elections; Secretary-General recommends extension of ONUMOZ mandate until installation of new Government.

- Assembly of International Seabed Authority to begin first session in Jamaica on Wednesday, as United Nations Convention on Law of Sea enters into force.

- African regional preparatory meeting for 1995 World Conference on Women to be held in Dakar from 16 to 23 November.

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The fiftieth session of the General Assembly should focus international attention on forging a new framework for development cooperation, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report on his agenda for development dated 11 November, he said that an effective multilateral development system required that the unique role of the United Nations be

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supported. He cited the Organization's universality and unmatched network, and its capacity to build consensus, inform policy, and help rationalize public and private development efforts.

The Assembly should identify critical issues and serve as a forum for discussion of emerging problems, he continued. It should focus on improving the management of global interdependence and promoting an integrated approach to economic and social development. It should also consider holding special sessions on major aspects of international cooperation for development, and convening an international conference on the financing of development.

He stressed the need for a more integrated, efficient and effective structure for United Nations development assistance. The Economic and Social Council must be revitalized to fulfil the role envisaged for it in the Charter. Cooperation between the Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions should be enhanced through joint initiatives, such as poverty reduction strategies, sustainable energy development and post-conflict peace-building. United Nations development must be supported by adequate financial resources, he said, adding that reliance on voluntary contributions alone was no longer feasible.

Three principles were fundamental, the Secretary-General concluded. More resources were needed; mandates and the resources provided for them must be balanced; and predictable funding must be secured so that operations were not undermined in the midst of performance.

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The Security Council has expressed alarm at the escalation in fighting in the Bihac area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the resulting flow of refugees and displaced persons. In a statement read out by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), yesterday, the Council condemned any violation of the international border between Croatia and Bosnia and demanded that all concerned, particularly "the so-called Krajina Serb forces", fully respect that border and refrain from hostile acts across it.

The Council emphasized the significance of its "safe areas" resolutions and demanded that all concerned facilitate their implementation. It called on all concerned to abstain from any action that could cause a further escalation in the fighting. The Council demanded that they immediately ensure, in cooperation with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), unimpeded access for humanitarian supplies. It called on the parties to respect UNPROFOR's safety and freedom of movement, and requested the Secretary-General to report as soon as possible on any further measures to stabilize the situation in Bihac, drawing on UNPROFOR's experience in the safe areas.

Council resolution 824 (1993) of 6 May declared six Bosnian towns, including Bihac, and their surroundings "safe areas" and authorized a strengthening of UNPROFOR to monitor the humanitarian situation in them. It also declared its readiness, in the event of a violation, to consider additional measures with a view to the resolution's full implementation.

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There has been intense fighting on a plateau overlooking the town of Bihac as Bosnian Serb forces continue to win back territory taken in a recent Bosnian Government offensive, a United Nations spokesman said today. Meanwhile, the Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, has had meetings with the authorities in Sarajevo and Pale in an effort to resolve the situation.

The Bosnian Government agreed to remove the last of its troops from the Mount Igman demilitarized zone in exchange for an increase in the number of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) patrols and observation posts there, the spokesman continued. The Bosnian Serbs agreed to cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regarding access for convoys, but little progress was made regarding UNPROFOR convoys. Mr. Akashi was scheduled to meet today with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman for a general review of the situations in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The General Assembly today included a new sub-item on capital punishment in its current agenda, by a vote of 70 in favour to 24 against, with 42 abstentions. The Assembly also decided, by a separate vote of 69 in favour to 25 against, with 37 abstentions, that the new sub-item would be dealt with under the item on human rights questions, and would be considered by the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

During the discussion on the item on capital punishment, the representative of Italy said his country, as a primary initiator of the item, had, in the spirit of consensus, agreed to its inclusion as a sub-item under human rights questions. However, it could not agree to the proposal to allocate it to the Sixth Committee (Legal), rather than the Third Committee, as that would not allow time for a full and proper debate of the issue, which had traditionally been a human rights question. Opposing its inclusion and allocation to the Third Committee, the Sudanese representative said that capital punishment was a divine matter, and that its abolition was a question of national sovereignty.

Also today, the Assembly reviewed the first report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Introducing the report, Tribunal President Antonio Cassese said the establishment of Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda raised the hope that the United Nations would eventually establish a permanent criminal court to deal with outrages against humanity.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave Headquarters tomorrow for a visit to Haiti lasting two or three hours, according to a United Nations

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spokesman. The Secretary-General will then proceed to Jamaica, where he will meet with Government officials and address the first session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority.

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The President of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), Afonso Dhlakama, today informed the Secretary-General that although he thought there had been irregularities in the conduct of the recent elections, he had accepted their results. He stressed that he was in favour of peace and national reconciliation, and that he was prepared to cooperate with the Government of Mozambique in the post-election period.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) be extended for technical reasons until the installation of the new Government. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 9 November, he said that was expected to take place by 15 December, following publication of the results of the elections. He recalled that Special Representative Aldo Ajello had issued a preliminary statement saying that voting had been peaceful and free of major irregularities, and paid tribute to the people of Mozambique and the staff of ONUMOZ for that remarkable achievement.

The Secretary-General went on to say that ONUMOZ would continue its present functions of good offices, as well as its verification and monitoring activities. The overall framework for the withdrawal of the Operation by the end of January would remain in effect, but with appropriate adjustments for some military and police observers. He added that those adjustments would have no significant financial implications.

A United Nations spokesman today said that the final results of the elections might be released on Wednesday. He noted that vote counting was behind schedule in some provinces.

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The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority will hold the first part of its inaugural session in Kingston, Jamaica, from 16 to 18 November. The opening day of the session coincides with the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The occasion is expected to be largely commemorative, with addresses by the Secretary-General and by a number of heads of State or Government.

The Assembly will resume the session from 27 February to 17 March 1995, when it is expected to begin its substantive work. It will begin with the election of members of the Council of the Authority and the adoption of rules of procedures.

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The African regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995, will take place in Dakar from 16 to 23 November. The meeting will be held at two levels: a meeting of experts from 16 to 20 November, and a ministerial conference from 21 to 23 November. It will be attended by representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The inaugural expert meeting will review implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000, adopted at the Third World Conference on Women in 1985. It will also discuss and finalize the African common position for the advancement of women, which is expected to be adopted at the ministerial conference.

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15 November 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends ONUMOZ mandate until new Mozambican Government takes office, but no later than 15 December; authorizes Operation to complete residual tasks before withdrawal by 31 January 1995.

+ Security Council says there must be no further delay in holding of self-determination referendum in Western Sahara; expresses concern at slow pace of voter identification process.

+ Secretary-General meets with President of Haiti in Port-au-Prince; says United Nations will continue to assist country on road to national reconciliation, stability and reconstruction.

+ Iraq informs Secretary-General it accepts Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity and international boundaries; Security Council says it will maintain sanctions regime against Iraq without change.

+ General Assembly adopts resolutions on cooperation between United Nations and CSCE, OIC and League of Arab States.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves draft resolution on principle of capacity to pay as fundamental criterion for determining Member States' contributions.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations says departmental restructuring has enhanced United Nations peace-keeping capacity; stresses need for proper financing to consolidate gains.

+ UNPROFOR issues strong protest after Bosnian Serb forces fire up to ten missiles into Bihac pocket; Tuzla shelled for second day running.

+ Georgian and Abkhaz parties resume talks in Geneva under chairmanship of Special Envoy Brunner.

+ United Nations to hold new round of talks with Government of Myanmar in Yangon from 21 to 23 November.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) until the country's newly-elected Government takes office, but no later than 15 December. The Operation's current mandate ends today. By unanimously adopting resolution 957 (1994), the Council authorized ONUMOZ to complete residual operations before its withdrawal by 31 January 1995. It also approved the schedule set out by the Secretary-General for the safe and orderly withdrawal of military and civilian personnel by that date.

The Council welcomed the elections held in Mozambique from 27 to 29 October. It reiterated its intention to endorse the results, should the United nations declare the elections free and fair, and called on the parties to accept and fully abide by them. The Council also called on the parties to complete the process of national reconciliation based on a system of multi-party democracy and the observance of democratic principles, as provided for in the General Peace Agreement.

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The Security Council today said that there must be no further undue delay in the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in accordance with the United Nations Settlement Plan for the territory. In a statement read out by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council concurred with the Secretary-General's view that the 28 August launching of the identification and registration of potential voters was a significant step towards fulfilment of the United Nations mandate on Western Sahara.

The Council expressed concern over the slow speed of the identification process and the small proportion of potential voters that had so far been interviewed. While recognizing the logistical difficulties involved, it urged the parties to take all possible efforts to facilitate the work of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and urged the earliest possible deployment of the Identification Commission staff already approved by the General Assembly.

The Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to visit the region later this month. It looked forward to receiving his report, and the report of the technical team charged with reassessing requirements for the deployment of MINURSO.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today left Headquarters for a brief visit to Haiti, according to a United Nations spokesman. After arriving in Port-au-Prince, he went to the Presidential Palace, where he met with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They discussed national reconciliation, reinforcement of democratic institutions, revitalization of the Haitian economy, forthcoming elections, the future of the police force, restructuring of the army and reform of the judicial system.

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The Secretary-General later attended a formal luncheon in his honour at the President's residence. In a brief toast, he congratulated Mr. Aristide on his return to Haiti. He assured him that the United Nations, in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS), would continue to assist the country on the road to national reconciliation, political stability and reconstruction.

Before leaving for an official visit to Jamaica, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with United Nations staff and members of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and the International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH).

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Iraq has informed the Secretary-General that it has recognized the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and international boundaries of Kuwait. It did so in a letter from the Iraqi Foreign Minister, which was delivered to the Secretary-General by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz yesterday. Attached to the letter were the following documents: the Declaration of the National Assembly, the Decree of the Revolutionary Command Council signed by its Chairman, President Saddam Hussein, and the copy of the National Gazette in which the Declaration and Decree recognizing Kuwait were published.

The Secretary-General described that development as a step forward, and expressed the hope that Iraq would continue to cooperate with the United Nations to ensure full compliance with all Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General also received the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at his request, with whom he discussed the situation in the region following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister stressed the importance of resolving all the other outstanding issues. The Secretary-General assured him that the United Nations would continue to follow the situation closely.

The Security Council yesterday reviewed the sanctions regime against Iraq and decided to continue it without change, according to President Madeleine Albright (United States). In remarks to correspondents, she said the Council had discussed the full range of Iraq's behaviour, including its recognition of Kuwait.

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The General Assembly today welcomed the increased cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and supported the activities of the CSCE to contribute to stability and the maintenance of peace within its area. In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly emphasized that long CSCE missions were an example of preventive diplomacy and had helped counteract the risk of violence in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and

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Montenegro). It also supported the activities of the CSCE to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Nagorny-Karabakh and to alleviate tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In another resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly called on United Nations agencies and programmes to strengthen cooperation with the League of Arab States. It said they should increase contacts and improve the mechanism of consultation, and implement projects and programmes in the Arab region. The Assembly also decided that a general meeting between the United Nations system and the League should take place every two years.

The Assembly adopted another resolution encouraging expanded cooperation between the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). It said that cooperation agreements should be negotiated, and that the two organizations should hold consultations on a regular basis.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today approved a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would create a working group to study implementation of the principle of capacity to pay as the fundamental criterion for determining the scale of assessments for apportioning United Nations expenses. The ad hoc intergovernmental working group would consist of 25 experts in economics, finance and statistics, to be appointed by the Assembly President with regard for geographical representation and economic diversity. Its report to the Assembly, to be submitted by 15 May 1995, would help the Committee on Contributions to simplify the methods for determining the scale of contributions.

By the terms of the draft, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, cooperate with institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and provide the group with all necessary support. It would decide that the group's activities should be funded from existing resources, but would welcome Member States' voluntary contributions.

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The United Nations Secretariat has undertaken many initiatives to enhance the Organization's peace-keeping capacity, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, has told the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization). He said there had been a "drastic restructuring" of the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations.

A 24-hour Situation Centre had been set up and a division had been created to coordinate and plan activities of police forces, Mr. Annan continued. Two demining experts were now working with the Department, which expected to expand its training unit. Although Member States had offered strong support, supplying offices and staff at their own expense, there was a need for financing to maintain the Department's capability on a permanent basis. He underlined the need for States to paying one third of their

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assessed contributions as soon as a resolution was adopted establishing an operation.

Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee for Peace-keeping Operations, said peace-keeping had been employed in new and more challenging settings in the past year. Introducing the Special Committee's report, he stressed that the Organization's capacity to respond promptly to demands for peace-keeping depended on the willingness of States to accept its primary role in that area, and on their readiness to contribute the necessary resources.

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Bosnian Serb forces have fired seven to ten surface-to-air missiles adapted for surface-to-surface use into the Bihac pocket, according to a United Nations spokesman. He described the missiles as "a blunt instrument of terror being used against civilian populations", and said that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had strongly protested their use. Meanwhile, fighting continued on the strategic plateau overlooking Bihac as the Bosnian Serbs attempted to win back more ground from Bosnian Government forces.

There was fighting elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina today, the spokesman continued. Bosnian Serb forces shelled Tuzla for the second day in a row, while sniper fire prevented trams from running in Sarajevo, although no injuries were reported there.

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Talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz parties resumed today in Geneva under the chairmanship of Special Envoy Edouard Brunner, according to a United Nations spokesman. The talks, which are expected to last two or three days, are focusing on a comprehensive political settlement and the return of refugees and displaced persons.

In an opening statement, Mr. Brunner said the Secretary-General was prepared to convene and chair further talks in Geneva beginning on 2 December, if there were progress in the current talks.

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Pursuant to the dialogue initiated at the beginning of last month between the Secretary-General and the Government of Myanmar, a new round of talks will be held in Yangon from 21 to 23 November, a United Nations spokesman announced today. Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will lead the United Nations delegation, which will arrive in Myanmar over the weekend.

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16 November 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Entry into force of Law of Sea Convention marks new era in international relations, Secretary-General tells Assembly of International Seabed Authority in Jamaica.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, welcomes Iraqi recognition of Kuwait as significant step towards implementation of relevant resolutions.

+ Secretary-General proposes Major-General Daniel Schroeder of United States as next Force Commander of UNMIH military component; Chief Superintendent Neil Pouliot of Canada to head police component.

+ Government of Angola and UNITA confirm intention to sign Lusaka Protocol on Sunday; agree to truce until cease-fire takes effect.

+ Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Somalia urges Security Council to consider arrangements for protected humanitarian bases before withdrawal of UNOSOM II.

+ United Nations high-level mission to visit Liberia and ECOWAS States for consultations on international response to Liberian situation.

+ Peace-keeping operations need well-defined mandates, unified command and control, adequate financing and enhanced training, speakers tell Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

+ Legal Committee approves draft resolution which would have General Assembly adopt convention on safety of United Nations and associated personnel.

+ Committee on Palestinian Rights reaffirms permanent United Nations responsibility concerning Palestine question until comprehensive settlement is reached.

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The information media service of the United Nations

The entry into force today of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is a historic achievement, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a statement to the first meeting of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority in Kingston, Jamaica, he said the Convention marked a new era in international relations. By providing rules for the high seas and a legal framework for the use of marine resources, it established a more equitable relationship among States.

The Law of the Sea Convention advanced both of the fundamental aims for which the United Nations had been created, by enhancing international peace and security and promoting global development, the Secretary-General continued. It also strengthened the most necessary of all political principles -- the principle of the rule of law.

At a luncheon hosted by Governor-General Sir Howard Cooke, the Secretary-General expressed appreciation for Jamaica's long-standing commitment to the United Nations. He also noted the country's role as a founder member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), its active involvement in the Organization of American States (OAS), and its contribution to efforts to restore democracy in Haiti.

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The Security Council today welcomed Iraq's irrevocable and unqualified recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and international boundaries. In a statement read out by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council described the Iraqi decision as a significant step towards implementation of its resolutions.

The Council went on to say that it would closely follow Iraq's implementation of that decision. It would also continue to keep under review the country's actions to complete its compliance with all relevant resolutions.

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In a meeting with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti yesterday, the Secretary-General proposed that Major-General Daniel Schroeder of the United States be the next Force Commander of the military component of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). He also proposed Chief Superintendent Neil Pouliot of Canada as head of the Mission's police component, according to a United Nations spokesman. President Aristide accepted those proposals.

The spokesman noted that Major-General Schroeder and Chief Superintendent Pouliot would operate under the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti, Lakhdar Brahimi. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General has appointed Major-General Manfred Eisele, a German national, as the new Assistant Secretary-General for Planning and Support in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

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The Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have confirmed that they will sign the Lusaka Protocol on Sunday. They have also agreed to establish a truce as of 8:00 p.m. today, local time, until the cease-fire provided for in the Protocol comes into effect. That agreement was reached after the parties met in the Zambian capital with Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye and the representatives of the three Observer States -- the United States, the Russian Federation and Portugal.

According to the agreement, the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and the UNITA military forces will refrain from carrying out attacks against each other. It says that the truce will benefit the environment in which the parties discuss certain issues prior to the signing of the Lusaka Protocol, and the consequent establishment of the cease-fire.

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The Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Somalia has urged the Security Council to consider arrangements for the establishment of protected humanitarian bases before the termination of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) next March. In a statement transmitted to the Council by the Secretary-General, the Committee stressed the need to ensure an orderly transition to the traditional mandates of United Nations agencies. The Council should authorize the transfer of UNOSOM II equipment and assets to operational United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and make core UNOSOM II humanitarian and security staff available as soon as possible. In addition, security requirements should be funded by a special allocation so as not to divert voluntary funds from humanitarian activities.

The Committee said United Nations agencies working in Somalia were committed to continuing emergency and rehabilitation activities beyond the expiration of the UNOSOM II mandate. However, the security situation in most parts of the country had deteriorated steadily this year. The withdrawal of United Nations forces in the absence of a political settlement would exacerbate the situation and could result in the cessation of humanitarian activities in some areas. In that case, any natural disaster or a return to generalized lawlessness would rapidly degenerate into a predictable new humanitarian emergency, the Committee warned.

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The United Nations today dispatched a high-level mission to visit Liberia and member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), according to a spokesman for the Organization. The mission will consult on how the international community can best deal with the situation in Liberia. It is being lead by Assistant Secretary-General Lansana Kouyate of the Department of Political Affairs.

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Increasingly complex peace-keeping operations need well-defined mandates, unified command and control, adequate financing and enhanced training, the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) was told today, as it continued its comprehensive review of peace-keeping. Speakers highlighted the need to seek political solutions to conflicts, as well as to address their underlying economic and social causes. They also stressed the importance of consultations among the Security Council, Secretariat and troop contributors, and of the General Assembly's active involvement in matters involving international peace and security.

Representatives voiced support for the development of stand-by arrangements for troops and equipment, so that peace-keeping forces could be rapidly deployed. The importance of developing a set of guidelines for the conduct of peace-keeping operations to replace the current ad hoc approach was stressed. Speakers also said that resources should not be diverted from development to peace-keeping.

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Acting without a vote, the Sixth Committee (Legal) today approved a draft resolution which would have the General Assembly adopt and open for signature a convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel. It would also have the Assembly urge States to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of such personnel within their territory.

Annexed to the text is a 29-article draft convention, resulting from the work of an Ad Hoc Committee established last year. The draft convention defines what is meant by United Nations, and associated personnel, and addresses matters such as the duties of States to ensure the safety and security of those personnel.

Yesterday, the Russian Federation proposed the convening of a peace conference to conclude the United Nations Decade of International Law (1990-1999). The country's representative noted that such a conference would be the third in a series, following those of 1889 and 1907. It would focus on the peaceful settlement of disputes and the formation of an international criminal justice system, and would provide a forum for examination of fundamental legal problems of the twenty-first century.

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The Committee on the Rights of the Palestinian People has reaffirmed the permanent responsibility of the United Nations concerning the question of Palestine until a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement is reached. It also reaffirmed that a settlement must be based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973); Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem; and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, particularly the right to self-determination.

In approving its annual report to the General Assembly, the Committee expressed support for broadening its membership and cited the usefulness of

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In approving its annual report to the General Assembly, the Committee expressed support for broadening its membership and cited the usefulness of

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its seminars on economic and social issues confronting the Palestinians. It emphasized the role of the Division for Palestinian Rights as a centre for research, monitoring, and the collection and dissemination of information. The Committee also cited the useful role played by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in raising international awareness of the complexities of the question.

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